Chapter 44

Higasa Akai

# THE ROYAL TUTOR

Chapter 44

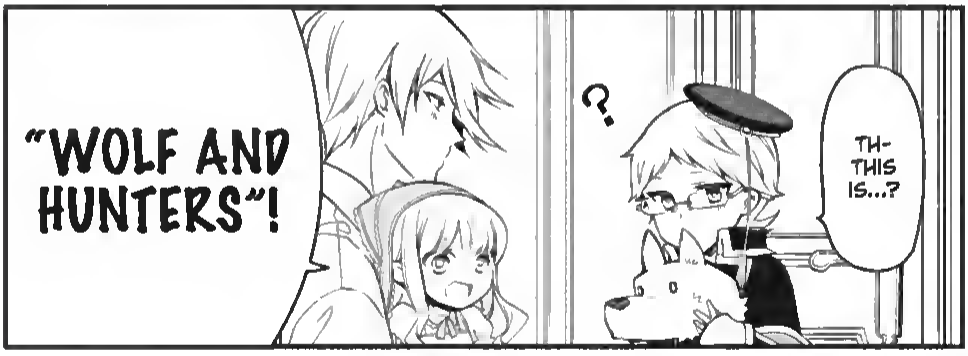
# Heine vs. The Princes

LAZE
だらんぬ。
だらんぬ～～。
LAAAZE
I IMPRESS EVEN MYSELF AT TIMES...
...AND ALL IN ONE SITTING ON THE MORNING OF MY DAY OF RESPITE.
I HAVE FINISHED DRAFTING UP THE TEXTS FOR THE PRINCES' LESSONS...
YES? WHO IS IT?
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
KNOCK KNOCK

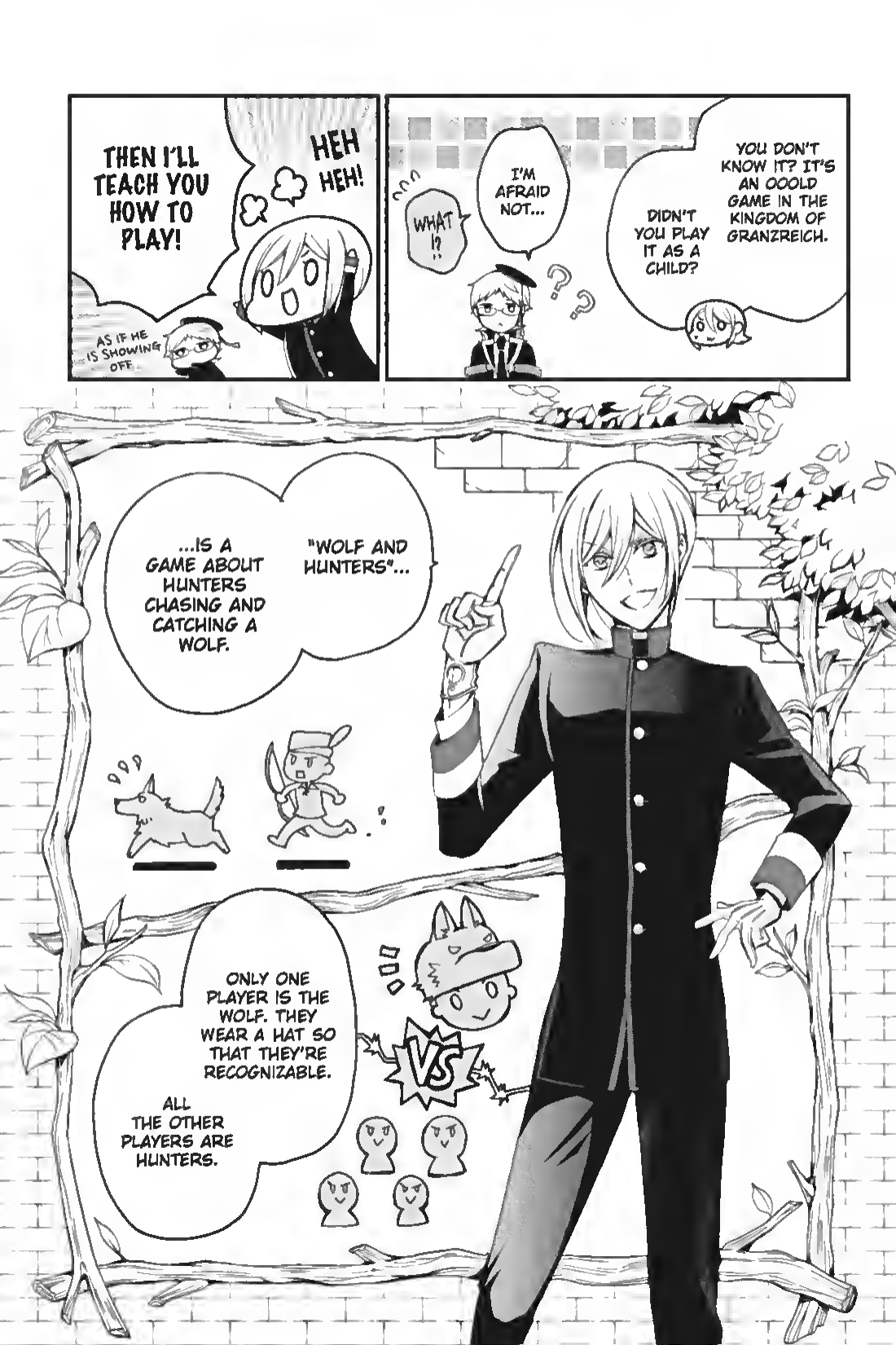
PRO-
FESSOR!
LET'S
PLAY!!

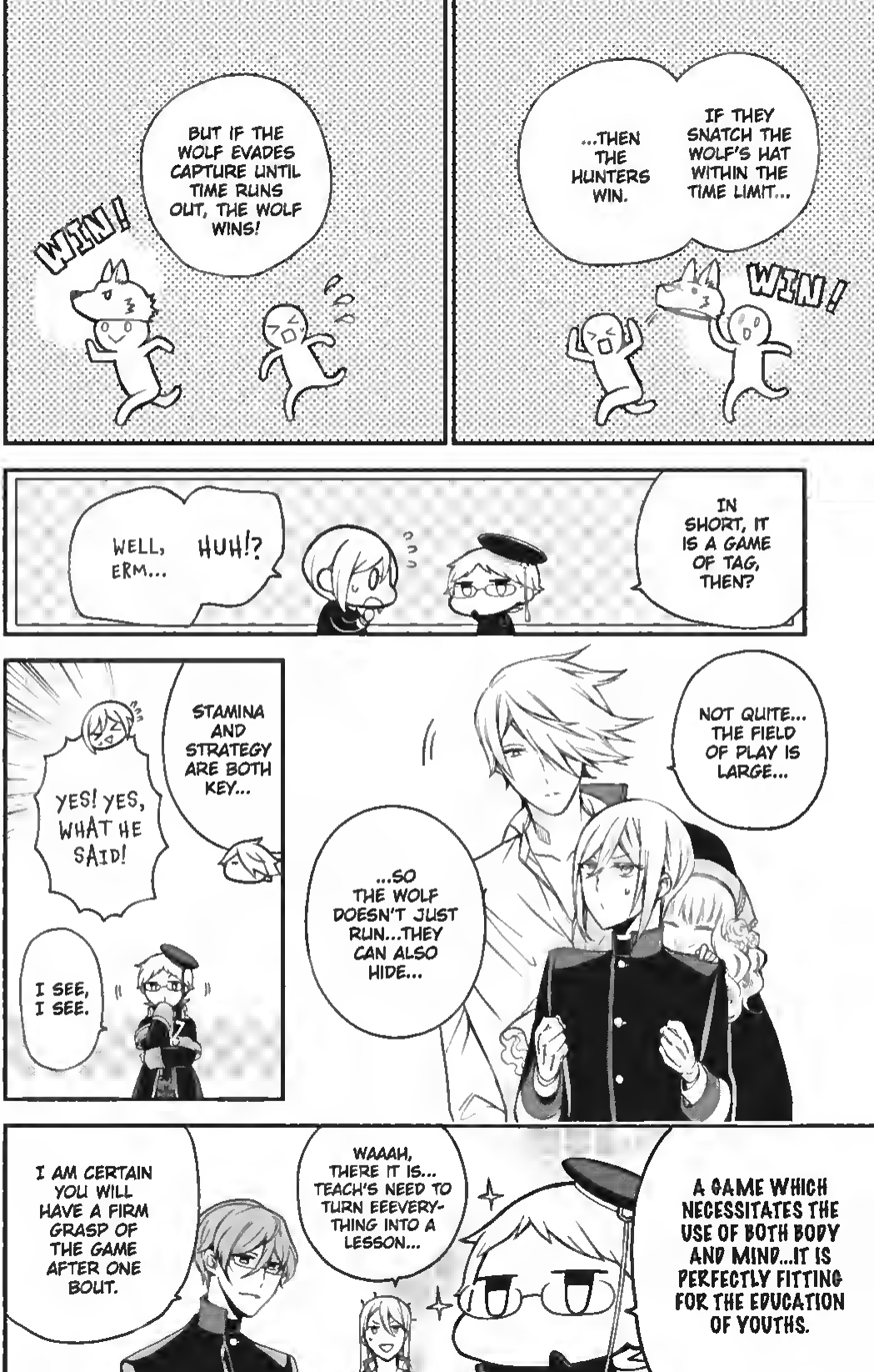
YES! ADELE EXTENDED THE INVITATION TO US AS WELL.
WILL THE PRINCES BE JOINING IN?
AHHH... YOU WISH TO PLAY...?
LEONIE, YOU'RE SO DIIIFFICULT.
BUT IF YOU INSIST, I SUPPOSE WE CAN ALLOW YOU TO JOIN US.
...
MUMBLE もごご
MUMBLE もごご
RE.LUC. TANT.LY!
WE WOULD ONLY PLAY WITH YOU FOR ADELE'S SAKE.
YOU HEARD HIM!
PWOP
UM, UM...
NOW, WHAT WILL WE BE PLAYING?
RUSTLE ごそごそ RUSTLE
YAY!
I REACHED A STOPPING POINT IN MY WORK MERE MOMENTS AGO.
I DO NOT MIND.

THIS!
しゃーん
TAH-DAH!


"WOLF AND HUNTERS"!
?
TH-THIS IS...?

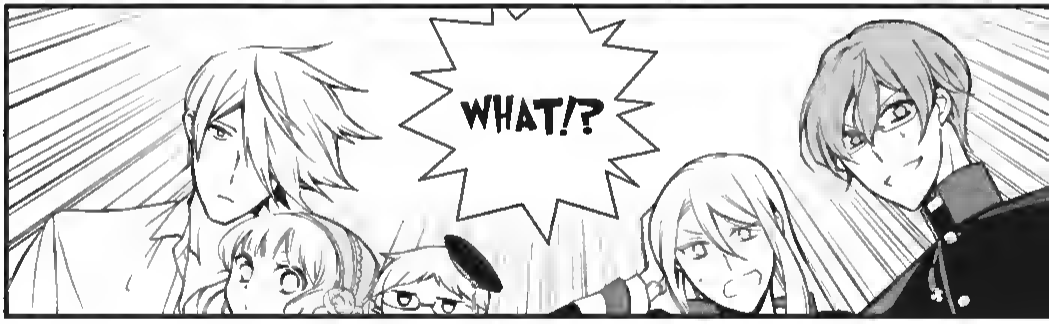
HUH!?
"WOLF AND HUNTERS"?
? ?


THEN I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO PLAY!
HEH HEH!
AS IF HE IS SHOWING OFF
WHAT!?
I'M AFRAID NOT...
DIDN'T YOU PLAY IT AS A CHILD?
YOU DON'T KNOW IT? IT'S AN OOOLD GAME IN THE KINGDOM OF GRANZREICH.
"WOLF AND HUNTERS"...
...IS A GAME ABOUT HUNTERS CHASING AND CATCHING A WOLF.
ONLY ONE PLAYER IS THE WOLF. THEY WEAR A HAT SO THAT THEY'RE RECOGNIZABLE.
ALL THE OTHER PLAYERS ARE HUNTERS.
VS


WIN!
BUT IF THE WOLF EVADES CAPTURE UNTIL TIME RUNS OUT, THE WOLF WINS!
...THEN THE HUNTERS WIN.
IF THEY SNATCH THE WOLF'S HAT WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT...
WIN!
WELL, ERM...
HUH!?
IN SHORT, IT IS A GAME OF TAG, THEN?
YES! YES, WHAT HE SAID!
STAMINA AND STRATEGY ARE BOTH KEY...
I SEE, I SEE.
NOT QUITE... THE FIELD OF PLAY IS LARGE...
...SO THE WOLF DOESN'T JUST RUN...THEY CAN ALSO HIDE...
I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL HAVE A FIRM GRASP OF THE GAME AFTER ONE BOUT.
WAAAH, THERE IT IS... TEACH'S NEED TO TURN EEEVERY-THING INTO A LESSON...
A GAME WHICH NECESSITATES THE USE OF BOTH BODY AND MIND...IT IS PERFECTLY FITTING FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUTHS.

MAP
YOU ARE HERE
... INSIDE THE COURTYARD
... INSIDE THE BUILDING
FRONT ENTRANCE
—THE PLAYING FIELD WILL SPAN THE ENTIRE COURTYARD.
LET US AGREE THAT GOING INSIDE IS AGAINST THE RULES.
NOW THEN, WE WILL DRAW LOTS TO DECIDE ON THE ROLE OF THE WOLF.
TO KEEP TRACK OF THE TIME REMAINING, WE CAN REFER TO THE COURTYARD CLOCK.
THE TIME LIMIT WILL BE TEN MINUTES.

I'M THE WOLF!!


WHAT!?

CATCHING UP TO LEONHARD WILL BE AN ARDUOUS TASK.
"STUPID"!? I AM NOT STUPID!
SLUMP
がくぅ
GEEEH...
WHY DOES THE STUPID-FAST ONE HAVE TO BE FIRST?

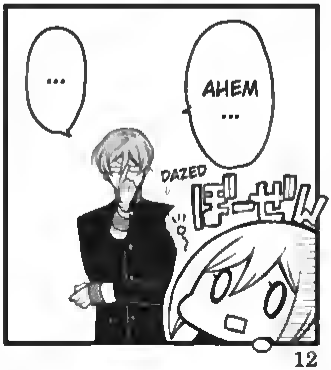
—SIX.
SEVEN.
EIGHT.
NINE.
TEN.
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME, THE HUNTERS ARE OBLIGED TO CLOSE THEIR EYES AND REMAIN IN PLACE FOR TEN SECONDS.
TEN SECONDS IS PLENTY OF TIME FOR ME TO RUN FAAAR AWAY!!
HEH HEH!
GO!!
WHOOSH

WOOOW, BIG BROTHER!
TMP TMP TMP
たたたたーっ
WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP TO HIM!
!
uwAH! HE'S ALREADY THAT FAR!?
MASTER, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
LEONHARD IS THAT WAY!
TAK
たっ
HMM...
HEH HEH!
THERE'S NO CHANCE I'LL LOSE!
RUSTLE
ガサ

WHOOSH
LEON-HARD!?
NWAAAH!!!

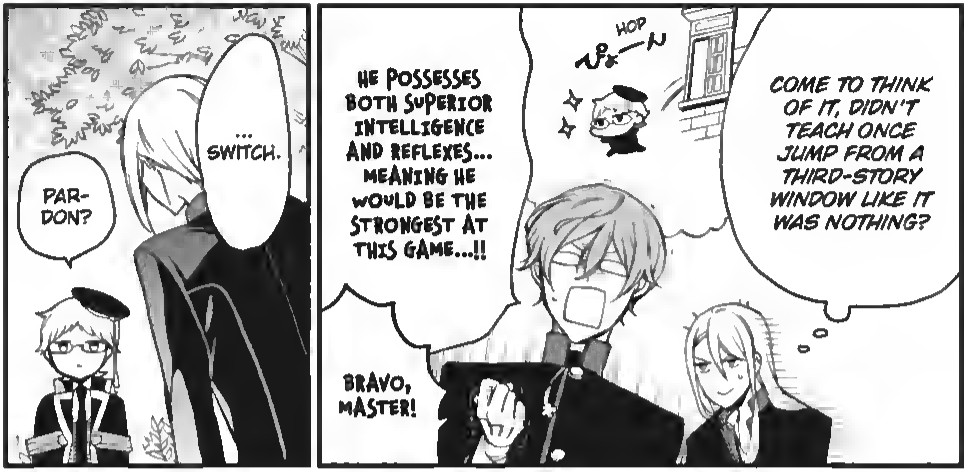
AN INSTANT KILL... !!?
UUUH...
WAAAH! PROFESSOR HEINE'S AMAAAZING!

TH-THAT WAS OVER RATHER QUICKLY. SHALL WE PLAY ONCE MORE?
WE WILL CHOOSE ANOTHER WOLF.


AHEM ...
...
DAZED

WOLF BRUNO
I-I WILL GIVE IT MY BEST ATTEMPT!
THIS HAT IS EMBARRASSING...
CAUGHT
WOLF LICHT
UH-
OH...
I DON'T IMAGINE I'LL MANAGE TO GET AWAY...
I JUST KNEW IT!!
CAUGHT
WOLF KAI
IT'S FUZZY...
CAUGHT

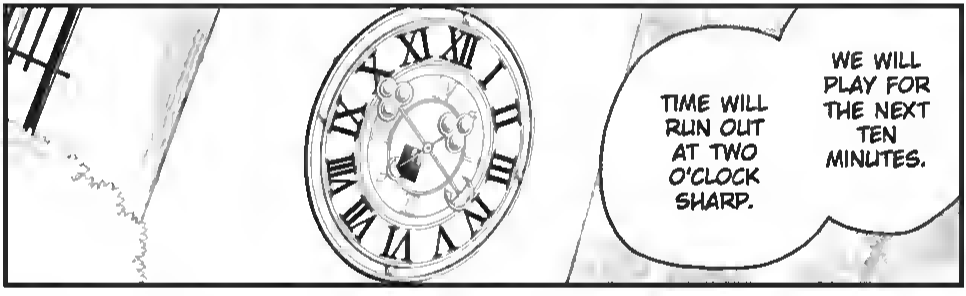
AMAZING! AMAAAZING!
PROFES-SOR!
GLOOM
HOW CAN YOU CATCH US SO EASILY!?
HOW ...!?
.....
I THOUGHT ANYTHING LESS THAN A SERIOUS EFFORT WOULD BE DULL, AND SO I COULD NOT HELP MYSELF.
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT ACTING IN GOOD FORM.
URGH...!
...IT WAS NOT SO VERY DIFFICULT TO APPREHEND YOU.
BY MAKING PREDICTIONS BASED ON MY OBSERVATIONS OF YOUR HIGHNESSES' TYPICAL BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS...
STARTING POINT
IN YOUR CASE, PRINCE LEONHARD, I MERELY TOOK A ROUTE THAT WOULD PLACE ME SQUARE IN YOUR PATH.


PAR-DON?
...SWITCH.
HE POSSESSES BOTH SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE AND REFLEXES... MEANING HE WOULD BE THE STRONGEST AT THIS GAME...!!
HOP
COME TO THINK OF IT, DIDN'T TEACH ONCE JUMP FROM A THIRD-STORY WINDOW LIKE IT WAS NOTHING?
BRAVO, MASTER!

WE'LL CATCH YOU!!
YOU BE THE WOLF!
FWIP

TRUE ENOUGH.
HEH.
PLEASE HUMOR US, MASTER!
WE CAN'T HAVE THAT, CAN WE!?
IF WE END THE GAME HERE, WE'LL LOOK PATHETIC IN FRONT OF ADELE!
PLOP
VERY WELL. IF YOU'LL PARDON ME...
GLOOM
...FOR A FULL-GROWN MAN, THIS IS RATHER...
NOW, NOW, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
IT SUITS HIM THE MOST ANYWAY!

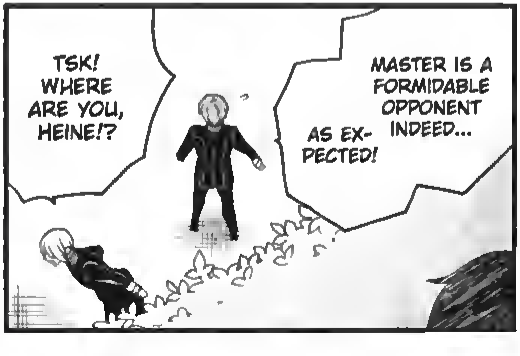
WHOOSH


WE WILL PLAY FOR THE NEXT TEN MINUTES.
TIME WILL RUN OUT AT TWO O'CLOCK SHARP.

ONE.
TWO.
THREE.
FOUR.
—FIVE.

ZOOM
GO!!

...HE'S ALREADY GONE!?

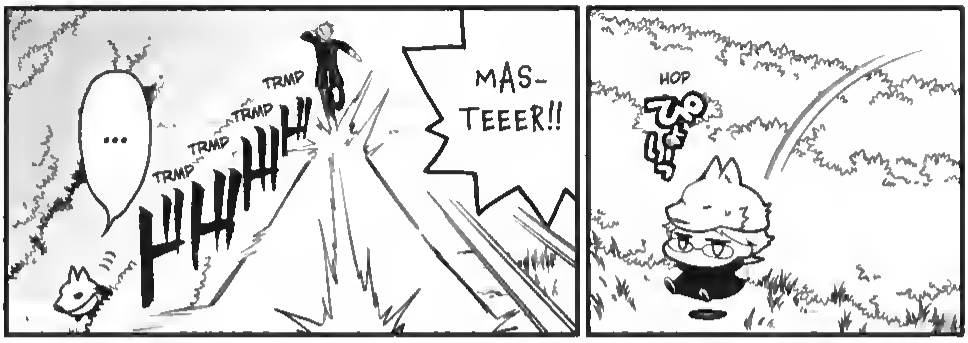

TSK! WHERE ARE YOU, HEINE!?
MASTER IS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT INDEED...
AS EXPECTED!

GLANCE
きょろ
きょろ
GLANCE
NO WAY! WHERE'D TEACH GOOO?

I WILL LET THEM THINK I HAVE GONE FAR, WHILE HIDING CLOSE BY.
AS I PREDICTED, THEY HAVE ALL GONE OFF IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
SO FAR, SO GOOD...
ROLL
ごろんっ
PROFES-SOR?
POP
ぽんっ
PROFES-SOR?
AM I SO VERY SMALL?
SHIVER SHIVER
PROFES-SOR!?

MAS-
TER!
SKFF
HEH-
HEH-HEH...
FOLLOWING YOUR OWN EXAMPLE, I MADE AN EDUCATED GUESS REGARDING THE STRATEGY YOU WOULD EMPLOY.
WELL PLAYED INDEED, PRINCE BRUNO.
BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN... CAN YOU CATCH ME?
I DO BEG YOUR PARDON... HOWEVER, 'TWOULD BE A DULL GAME IF YOU WERE TO CATCH ME SO SOON.
TAK
WHUSH
I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
PREPARE YOURSELF! HAAA!
WHUSH

MORE... PLEASE MAKE ME FEEL MORE OF THIS ANGUISH!
INCH
じりっ
IT IS AS IF THIS REVEALS THE TRUE GAP BETWEEN MASTER AND I AS HUMAN BEINGS!
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ!!
HAAA... THE CRUSHING GAP BETWEEN OUR ATHLETIC ABILI-TIES...
I BEG OF YOU, FORGE ME INTO A BETTER MAN, MASTEEER!!
TRMP
TRMP
TRMP
TRMP
HE IS THE ONE HUNTER BY WHOM I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT WISH TO BE CAUGHT.


...
TRMP
TRMP
TRMP
TRMP
MAS-
TEEER!!
HOP

WHO'S THERE!?
YOU IN THE BUSHES...!
WHIRL

!!
SNAP

WHAT, IT WAS ONLY A CAT?
MEOWW!

NOT A SINGLE CAT CAN GET INSIDE!
THE PALACE IS SURROUNDED BY HIGH FENCES.
WHAT?!
—IS WHAT YOU THOUGHT I WOULD SAY, ISN'T IT? FOOL!
You need not pay me any mind.
I am no cat, but I am also not Heine.
PRINCE LEONHARD...
HARRUMPH! HARRUMPH!
IF YOU AREN'T HEINE, THEN I HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH YOU!
BAH!

PROFESSOR HEINE HIDES DIRTY BOOKS IN HIS ROOM...
...AND STRANGE DEVICES FOR MAKING YOURSELF TALLER TOO!
!!
PRO-FESSOR HEINE ...
HMM?

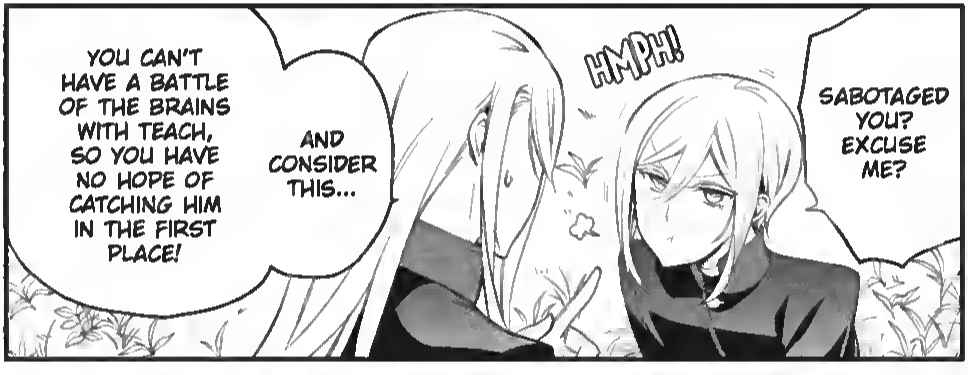
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I DO NO SUCH THING!
HRMPH!
HOW RUDE!!

HEH-HEH! JUST AS PLANNED!
I'LL BE TAKING THAT!!
WHOOSH

AH!

とーーーん
BUMP
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHY WOULD SOMEONE BE IN THE BUSHES!?
AH!
ぴゅーーー
ZOOM
すたっ
TMP
.....
WHERE ARE YOU, HEINEEE!?
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, HEINE! HOW DARE YOU FOOL ME!?
HMM ...?
WHAT'S WITH YOU!? I WAS THIS CLOSE TO CATCHING HIM!!
HUH!? WH- WHAT!?
?
LEONIIIE...

LISTEN TO THIS!
LEONIE SABOTAGED MEEEE!!
WHY ARE THE TWO OF YOU FIGHTING?


YOU CAN'T HAVE A BATTLE OF THE BRAINS WITH TEACH, SO YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF CATCHING HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE!
AND CONSIDER THIS...
HMPH!
SABOTAGED YOU? EXCUSE ME?

.....
KAI, YOU SAY SOME-THING TOO...
BE NICE...
KAINIE, ARE YOU REALLY LOOKING FOR HIM?
I'M CHECK-ING UNDER ROCKS
UNDER THEM!!?

THAT'S NOT THE SAAAME!
...HEINE CAUGHT YOU FASTER THAN HE CAUGHT ME!
LIKE YOU'RE SO GREAT! WHEN YOU WERE THE WOLF...
HMPH!
CUT IT OUT. BOTH OF YOU.

.....
PERHAPS I SHOULD STOP THE GAME TEMPORARILY AND INTERVENE.
IT HAPPENED WHEN PRINCE KAI'S FRIEND CAME TO VISIT TOO...
OH DEAR. THIS AGAIN?
THEY ARE CERTAINLY NOT ON BAD TERMS, BUT AT TIMES THEY DO BUTT HEADS.
...NONE OF US CAN CATCH HIM ON OUR OWN.
I FEEL PATHETIC ADMITTING IT, BUT BASICALLY...
...YEAH.
... THEN...
THE SAME COULD BE SAID FOR MY IDEA...
.....
NGH...
NOD
I DOUBT MY TRICK WILL WORK ON HIM TWICE.

HMPH!
IF WE MUST!
SO...
...WE'LL HAVE TO DO THIS TOGETHER!
LET'S DO IT!!
TEACH-ER!
HEINEEE! WHERE ARE YOU!?
OH DEAR.
WHIRL
SO HE WON'T... GET CLOSE...
THEN WE'LL CHASE HEINE.
GOT IT!
PSST
PSST
?
?
WHISPER
WHISPER
NOW I HAVE THE BEGINNINGS OF A PLAN...

—A FEW MINUTES LATER
...TWO MINUTES REMAIN...
WHAT STRATEGY WILL THEY EMPLOY AGAINST ME, I WONDER?
PHEW!
AFTER THEIR DISCUSSION, PRINCE LEONHARD AND PRINCE KAI GAVE CHASE.
HOWEVER, I DID NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR SIGNS OF THEM SETTING ANY SORT OF TRAP...
TIK
TIK
TIK
OH...?
.....
TIK
TIK
TIK

TICK
IT WOULD SEEM THEY DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO ENACT THIS PLAN OF THEIRS.
.....
IT IS TWO O'CLOCK... THE GAME IS OVER, THEN.
RUSTLE
PRINCESS ADELE!
PRINCES! THE TIME IS UP!

!
ONCE THE END OF THE TEN MINUTES DREW NEAR...
...YOU REALLY DID COME BY THE CLOCK TO CHECK THE TIME!
DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO WAS RIGHT!
WHOOSH

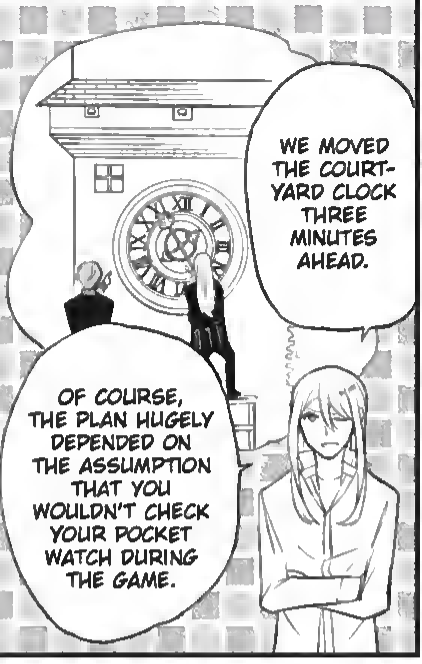
WHAP
LEAP
YOUR AMBUSH IS NOT—
THE GAME IS ALREADY OVER, YOUR HIGHNESSES.
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
KAI!
LICHT!

SPLASH
!!
CHAAARGE! EVERY MAN AT ONCE!!

ガバ
TACKLE

SQUEEEEZE
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
AHEM...
YOUR HIGH-NESSES?
!
W...
PULL
WE DID IT...
WE DID IT! WE CAUGHT HEINEEE!
WHOO-HOO!

GLARE
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE PLEASED.
NOW PLEASE PUT ME DOWN.
OOPS! SORRY!
HIP, HIP, HOORAY!
HIP, HIP, HOORAY!
TAP
AS I SAID, IT IS PAST TWO.
CATCHING ME AT THIS POINT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.
TEACH, IS YOUR POCKET WATCH ACCURATE?
BEG PARDON? YES, IT IS.


WE MOVED THE COURT-YARD CLOCK THREE MINUTES AHEAD.
OF COURSE, THE PLAN HUGELY DEPENDED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT YOU WOULDN'T CHECK YOUR POCKET WATCH DURING THE GAME.

IT IS 1:57...!?

IT WAS THE ONLY IDEA I COULD CONTRIVE...
...WOULD BE AT THE END OF THE GAME.
I SURMISED THE ONLY TIME YOU WOULD LET DOWN YOUR GUARD...

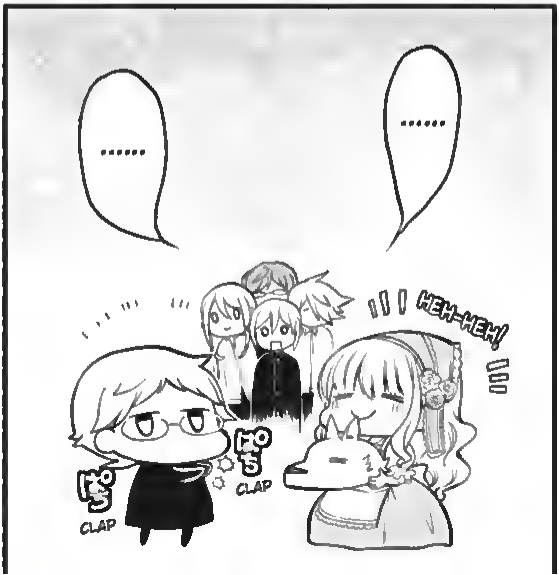
SNAP
NO.
I DID NOT ACCOUNT FOR ALL POSSIBILITIES, AND THAT WAS MY ERROR.

.....
PERHAPS IT WAS UNDER-HANDED...

...TOGETHER, YOU MADE A MOST EXCELLENT EFFORT.
I WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS OF MY PUPILS.
I ACCEPT THIS DEFEAT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
IT'S NOT FAIR THAT WE'RE THE ONLY WET ONES!
RIGHT, KAINE?
MN...
SPLASH
WE DID IT! BRUNIE! LEONIE!
TAKE THAT!
UWAH!
GOODNESS, BUT THEIR PROGRESS BEWILDERS ME...
I AM THEIR TEACHER...
...YET AT TIMES, THEY FAR EXCEED MY ESTIMATIONS.
PRO-FESSOR! PRO-FESSOR!
AH!
PATTER
HUH?
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?
HOWEVER, YOUR HIGHNESS-ES...
STARE

!!!?
I GOT THE HAT!
カリぉ
SNATCH


.....
.....
HEH-HEH!
CLAP
CLAP

OH DEAR. I'VE LOST.
HEH-HEH-HEH! I WIN!

LET'S SEE NOW...
THE CORRECT TIME IS 1:58. PERFECTLY WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT.
WHUH?
UH.
HUH?
YOU DO RECALL THAT, ACCORDING TO THE RULES YOUR HIGHNESSES SO KINDLY EXPLAINED TO ME...
...A HUNTER MUST WIN THE GAME BY SNATCHING THE HAT, YES?
AHHHHHHH!!!
FLAP
FLAP

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG WITH LEONHARD?
LAST NIGHT, HIS HIGHNESS WAS SOAKED TO THE BONE, SO HE HAS COME DOWN WITH A COLD.
THAT, COMBINED WITH THE SHOCK OF BEING UNABLE TO BEAT ME, WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM. HE IS NOW LAID UP IN BED...
RRRRRRNGH... RRRRNGH...

THEY STILL LACK THE PROPER FOLLOW-THROUGH.
IT SEEMS THE PRINCES WILL REQUIRE A TUTOR FOR SOME TIME YET...
HMPH!
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, HEINE!
LEONHARD, YOU MUST REST!

♦ To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor ♦

# The Royal Tutor Chapter 44

## Higasa Akai

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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